


Mr. P. L. Wendover

Theodore Wesley Koch



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TO THEODORE WESLEY KOCH, M. A.
Librarian of the University
of Michigan

THEODORE WESLEY KOCH, M. A.,

Librarian of the University of Michigan,

Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Sir:—

AS you offer your resignation from the position of Librarian of the University of Michigan, your colleagues in the faculties wish to express their deep regret at your prospective departure, and their high appreciation of your work for this community.

You came to the University, eleven years ago, at a time when, in the extraordinary growth of the institution, it had become necessary to put aside methods which had become obsolete, and to set up new standards of usefulness and service. Meeting this problem in a peculiarly difficult form in the Library, you succeeded by patient effort in transforming it from a mere storehouse of books used chiefly by the corps of instructors into a true workshop for the whole University, into its true intellectual center. The widest possible use of the resources of the Library consistent with their proper safeguarding has become the prerogative if not the practice of the great mass of the undergraduates, who have been thus encouraged to intimacy with books. When you came to the Library, its bare and cold interior repelled the visitor and offered no attraction to the habitual user: you have succeeded in imparting to the building an air of hospitality and beauty, not without its influence upon generations of students. Under your

wise direction and broadminded stimulation the Library has become an efficient instrument for the education of a Democracy, ever guided by a human sense of the value of individual contacts.

Beyond the solving of the great problem of the relation of the Library to the undergraduate body, there remains its relation to deeper study and research by members of the faculties and by advanced students. The Library under you has aided scholarship in important ways, among which we readily recall the following:

Under your direction the Library has been largely recatalogued and rearranged according to modern methods, which save time beyond estimate.

However pressed by your manifold duties, you have never been too busy to help the searcher. And your example has produced the same spirit of amiable serviceableness among the Library staff.

You have established connection with other great libraries of the country, which has in effect greatly enlarged this Library: workers here are enabled to draw upon the resources of larger collections.

You have systematically communicated to your colleagues the bibliographical material that came into your hands, and have thus aided those in charge of departmental funds to order books more intelligently, and to build up collections which will be of inestimable value to future generations. Ever remembering the individual interests of your colleagues, you have aided them to enrich the Library and further to prosecute their studies.

You have made a permanent record and a large collection of the scholarly publications by members of the faculties, and thus emphasized the fact that the duty of the University is not only to teach but also to advance knowledge.

We shall not dwell upon your services to the community at large in stimulating an interest in art and letters, on

your prominence among your professional confreres throughout the country, or on the remarkable harmony and mutual friendliness in which the large Library staff has lived and worked under you. In every policy of your administration you have steadfastly kept before you the ideal of broadening the intellectual outlook of the students by introducing them to wider fields of literature, science, and art, and of promoting scholarly study and research by the members of the faculties.

As we call to mind these and many other important services to us, to the University, to the community, to the State, and to the cause of Education, we regard your proposed departure as a great loss to all of them; and we feel more poignantly the regrets based upon personal respect and affection. We know that, whatever institution may obtain your services and counsel, your future record will be of the same valuable character as that to which we testify.

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